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Wednesday, December 14, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

QUEEN LATIFAH IS BACK WITH 'STAR'

Lee Daniels' new series premieres tonight. 15

Kanye West meets with Donald Trump. 14

Flyers look to hang 10 in a row tonight. 22

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'THE LIGHT SHE WAS'

The family of 'The Voice' finalist Christina Grimmie honors her memory with a foundation and a new album. 2

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1. What did Pennsylvania do with regard to the vote in the last presidential election?

2. What is the Flyers' goals against average during their none-game win streak?

3. What is the name of Queen Latifah's character on "Star"?

3 things you need to know

ACCUSED 'FAKE-NEWS' PIZZERIA GUNMAN FACES FEDERAL CHARGE

1 Federal prosecutors on Tuesday filed a gun charge against a North Carolina man suspected of shooting a rifle inside a Washington pizzeria that fake news stories posted online claimed was a front for a child sex ring. The man, Edgar Maddison Welch, 28, is expected to appear later in the day for an initial hearing in U.S. District Court over the Dec. 4 incident at the Comet Ping Pong restaurant, the U.S. Attorney's office said. The charge of interstate transportation of a firearm with intent to commit an offense carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years. It supersedes assault and gun charges brought against the Durham, North Carolina, man in District of Columbia Superior Court, which prosecutors dropped on Tuesday. REUTERS

MICROSOFT CO-FOUNDER GATES, TRUMP DISCUSS INNOVATION

2 Microsoft Corp. co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates said he and U.S. President-elect Donald Trump had a good conversation about "the power of innovation" on a variety of issues, including health and education. "We had a good conversation about innovation, how it can help in health, education, impact of foreign aide and energy," Gates, who runs one of the largest private charities in the world, told reporters as he left Trump Tower in New York City after their talk.

REUTERS

DUTERTE SAYS HE MAY NOT 'BE AROUND' TILL END OF TERM

3 Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said that he might not "be around" until the end of his term, and that, after winning the presidency at 71, he had found out late in the day that "I don't need it at my age." The previous day he had told a gathering of business leaders in the Philippines that he suffered from back pains, migraines and Buerger's disease, a cause of blockages in the blood vessels, associated with smoking during his youth. On Tuesday, Duterte told a cheering crowd of a few thousand expatriate Filipinos in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh: "I am old ... This is my last hurrah — after this, 77 — I am not sure if I will still be around by the end of my term." Duterte, who will be 77 at the end of his six-year term in 2022, is the oldest person to be elected president in the Philippines since the post-war period. REUTERS

From left, Christina Grimmie's brother Mark Grimmie, Wishwall founder Simonetta Lein, and Girl Talk Marlton founder Mary Beth Iannarella. ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF SIMONETTA LEIN

Wishwall honors 'Voice' singer Christina Grimmie

The wall was erected in slain singer's New Jersey hometown.

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Only six months have passed since Christina Grimmie, a rising star and gifted singer from South Jersey, lost her life to senseless violence.

But Christina's spirit continues to inspire people.

"It's just amazing that other people who didn't even know her feel touched by her," said Christina's brother, Marc Grimmie, 24, after a ceremony Saturday to dedicate a Wishwall in her memory in Marlton, New Jersey, where they had lived.

"It just makes me as a brother very joyful that even with the tragedy, people can see what a light she was," he said.

As a YouTube sensation, Christina had attracted interest from major record labels. She wowed audiences as a finalist on the reality-TV singing competition "The Voice."

But her career was tragically cut short at just 22 years old. While signing autographs after a concert on June 10 in Orlando, Florida, she was fatally shot by a deranged fan. The shooter took his own life moments later.

Mary Beth Iannarella, founder of Girl Talk Marlton, a peer-to-peer mentoring organization that currently serves 90 girls grades five through 12, said the girls were "distraught" after Christina's death. Iannarella had learned about the Wishwall concept after seeing it in Philadelphia, and thought it could be a good tribute to Christina.

"I took it to the group, and said, 'What do you think if we do this in memory of her?'" she recalled.

Iannarella's wish came true thanks to Simonetta Lein, founder of the Wishwall Foundation. In Christina's honor, Lein and Iannarella dedicated the second Wishwall on Saturday at Evesham Library in Marlton, New Jersey, where Christina had lived.

"The Wishwall has something that is magical to me," said Lein, who will choose a wish from those pinned to the wall and try to grant it. "I felt Christina there very strongly. ... She gave a lot of inspiration to girls to keep on being themselves, and keep on fighting to be unique."

As "Wishmaker," Lein has a good track record — the first wish she picked, of finding the driver behind a fatal Philly hit-and-run, seems to have come true after one year (charges are still pending).

For Mark Grimmie, the Wishwall is another way to honor his sister.

"Me and my family are dedicating our life to honor her legacy," he said.

While Grimmie said getting through the holidays without his beloved little sister is a struggle, his family is focusing on positive ways to remember Christina. They plan to start a foundation in her honor, he said, and are currently working on a new album of the music Christina was working on at the time of her death.

"She was working so hard on this. It gives us something that we can still smile about and work on over the day, almost like she's still here," he said of the recordings Christina left behind. "Her music is still here. Her spirit is still here."

"It's closure for us, but we wish she was here to be part of it."

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BRIEF

Donate to Metro's Toy Drive
In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

This year marks the 7th anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor in chief. Mr. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive.

"Tony felt we should use the size and scale of Metro to help other's and he used enormous dedication and force to execute the project and every year make children in need a little happier during the holiday season," said Metro's Chief Executive Officer Yggers Mortensen.

"I am proud to continue this project in honor of Tony and I hope all our readers, suppliers and members of the Metro team will help to make this yet another great Metro Magic year."

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to Metro .us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic story on the homepage.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season, we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

It's good to receive a gift. It's better to give one. METRO

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Philadelphia Fire Department Lt. Joyce Craig, 36, died while fighting a basement fire in December 2014. PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Family of Philly firefighter sues equipment companies for wrongful death

Lt. Joyce Craig, who died battling a 2014 blaze, had on gear that failed to protect her, the suit contends.

ALEXIS SACHDEV
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The family of a fallen Philadelphia firefighter has filed a $1.5 million wrongful death lawsuit against 30 fire equipment manufacturers for producing gear that failed to protect her.

Lt. Joyce Craig was the city's first female firefighter to die in the line of duty. She suffocated while trapped in the basement in a West Oak Lane home on Dec. 9, 2014.

The lawsuit — filed on behalf of her two children — claims that if the equipment she was using had worked properly, Craig wouldn't have died.

Her gear, including a self-contained breathing apparatus, an emergency location device and thermal protective clothing, failed to protect Craig as she worked to battle the fire.

The family is seeking damages of $50,000 from each of the 30 defendants. The companies named in the lawsuit include Scott Health and Safety, Tyco, Fisher Scientific, Goodyear, Cairns and Brother and Majestic Fire Apparel. Tyco and Fisher Scientific could not be reached for comment, and Majestic Fire Apparel declined to comment on an active investigation.

"This was a totally foreseeable and preventable tragedy," David Kwass, an attorney representing Craig's estate, said in a statement. "We now know and will demonstrate at trial that Firefighter Craig never stood a chance at surviving that fire because her equipment — from her personal protective suit to her air tank system — was inadequate."

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Cosby's lawyers, prosecutors clash in court over female accusers

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele contended defense attorneys were trying to "manipulate" Cosby's upcoming criminal trial by publicly naming the 13 accusers prosecutors want to call to prove Cosby was a serial abuser of women.

Bill Cosby GETTY IMAGES

Lawyers for Bill Cosby and Pennsylvania prosecutors clashed angrily in court on Tuesday over whether the defense team was deliberately trying to intimidate women who have accused the entertainer of sexual assault.

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele contended defense attorneys were trying to "manipulate" Cosby's upcoming criminal trial by publicly naming the 13 accusers prosecutors want to call to prove Cosby was a serial abuser of women.

Cosby's reputation as a family-friendly entertainer has suffered from allegations by about 50 women that he sexually assaulted them in a series of alleged attacks dating back decades.

The actor, 79, only faces criminal charges in the Pennsylvania case involving Andrea Constand, a former basketball coach at his alma mater. Cosby has denied wrongdoing.

At Tuesday's hearing, Steele noted that a screen set up to show a defense presentation was angled toward an audience that included a sizable number of journalists.

"They want to stick them up on a PowerPoint so everyone in here can see!" Steele said.

Defense attorney Brian McMonagle accused Steele of positioning the screen before pointing out that 11 of the women have already publicly identified themselves.

Judge Steven O'Neill interrupted the shouting match, saying that a court official had put up the screen.

"You don't want to get involved with the sheriffs here, if you two can't control yourselves," O'Neill said.

Constand has accused Cosby of giving her pills and wine at his home in 2004 before sexually assaulting her.

If prosecutors are successful in persuading the judge to allow the 13 alleged victims, Cosby would face a parade of witnesses portraying him as a serial predator.

Typically, prosecutors cannot introduce evidence of unrelated "prior bad acts." But Pennsylvania law allows it if the previous instances show a clear pattern of behavior. REUTERS

BRIEF

It's official: Trump won Pennsylvania by 44K votes

The Pennsylvania Department of State officially named President-elect Donald Trump the winner of the 2016 presidential election.

Gov. Tom Wolf certified the results, which found Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence in the lead with 2,970,733 votes, the Department of State announced Monday.

The results come after a federal judge denied Green Party candidate Jill Stein's request to recount state paper ballots earlier that day, and a previous request to examine voting machines, which, lacking a paper trail, were susceptible to hacking, Stein argued.

In a 31-page opinion, U.S. District Judge Paul Diamond in Philadelphia said it "borders on the irrational" to believe hacking occurred in the state. He also emphasized that the deadline to certify the state's electoral votes is Tuesday, making it impossible to hold a recount in time.

Across the state's 67 counties, votes for electors — not the candidates themselves — were as follows:

- Electors for Republican Party candidates Trump and Pence: 2,970,733
- Electors for Democratic Party candidates Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine: 2,926,441
- Electors for Libertarian Party candidates Gary E. Johnson and William Weld: 146,715
- Electors for Green Party candidates Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka: 49,941
- Electors for Constitution Party candidates Darrell L. Castle and Scott N. Bradley: 21,572

Though Trump won the state by a 44,000-vote margin, Clinton carried Pennsylvania's three largest cities.

Allentown, Lehigh County, the state's third most-populous city, swung left, giving Clinton 50.4 percent of the vote with a 7,000 vote margin.

Allegheny County, home to Pittsburgh, also went blue, giving Clinton-Kaine a 16.4 percent lead over Trump.

Philadelphia and its surrounding counties — Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Bucks — voted blue, too. In Philly, Clinton took an overwhelming 82.2 percent win over Trump's 15.5. ALEXIS SACHDEV

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Tech employees vow not to help Trump surveil Muslims, deport immigrants

Trump clashed with Silicon Valley on several issues during the campaign, including immigration, government surveillance and encryption, and his victory last month alarmed many companies who feared he might follow through on his pledges.

Google employees play volleyball on the company campus at Google Press Day 2006 May 10, 2006 in Mountain View, California. GETTY IMAGES

More than 200 employees of technology companies including Alphabet Inc's Google, Twitter Inc. and Salesforce pledged on Tuesday to not help U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's administration build a data registry to track people based on their religion or assist in mass deportations.

Drawing comparisons to the Holocaust and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the employees signed an open letter at neveragain.tech rebuking ideas floated by Trump during the campaign trail. The protest, which began with about 60 signatures but had more than tripled within hours of publication, comes a day before several technology company executives are due to meet with the real-estate developer in New York City.

"We are choosing to stand in solidarity with Muslim Americans, immigrants, and all people whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by the incoming administration's proposed data collection policies," reads the letter, signed by a mix of engineers, designers and business executives.

It continues: "We refuse to build a database of people based on their Constitutionally-protected religious beliefs. We refuse to facilitate mass deportations of people the government believes to be undesirable."

The letter vows to not participate in creating databases of identifying information for the U.S. government on the basis of race, religion or national origin, to minimize the collection or retention of data that could facilitate such targeting and to oppose any misuse of data at their respective organizations considered illegal or unethical.

Those concerns have not been assuaged in recent weeks, as Trump has said he intends to nominate individuals to senior posts in his administration who favor expanding surveillance programs.

Alphabet Chief Executive Officer Larry Page, Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook, Facebook Inc Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg and Amazon.com Inc. CEO Jeff Bezos and Oracle Corp. CEO Safra Catz are among those expected to attend the summit with Trump's transition team, according to two technology industry sources.

The Trump transition team did not respond to a request for comment regarding the open letter. REUTERS

BRIEF

Reports: Trump chooses congressman Zinke for interior secretary

President-elect Donald Trump will name first-term Republican U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke of Montana, a former Navy SEAL commander, as his interior secretary, according to media reports on Tuesday.

A senior transition official who spoke to Reuters described Zinke, 55, as a leading candidate for the job.

Zinke will be nominated to head the Interior Department, which employs more than 70,000 people across the United States and oversees more than 20 percent of federal land, including national parks like Yellowstone and Yosemite.

Trump's decision to pick Zinke was first reported by Politico. The Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal also said Zinke had been tapped for the post.

Zinke is a proponent of keeping public lands under federal ownership, putting him at odds with some in his Republican Party who are more favorable to privatization or placing them under the control of states.

It remains unclear where Zinke would stand on opening up more federal lands to increased drilling and mining, something Trump promised he would do as president. REUTERS

Senate fight looms after Trump taps Exxon CEO as top US diplomat

Rex Tillerson addresses a keynote speech during the World Gas Conference in Paris on June 2, 2015. GETTY IMAGES

Republican foreign policy hawks in the Senate are likely to give Rex Tillerson a rough time at a confirmation hearing.

Donald Trump named the head of Exxon Mobil Corp, Rex Tillerson, as his choice for U.S. secretary of state on Tuesday and won backing from some Republican foreign policy figures ahead of a possible Senate fight over the oilman's ties to Russia.

The Exxon CEO potentially faces difficulties getting confirmed in the Republican-controlled Senate. Some lawmakers worry about his links to Moscow and opposition to U.S. sanctions on Russia, which awarded him a friendship medal in 2013.

But several Republican establishment figures, including former secretaries of state James Baker and Condoleezza Rice, and former Defense Secretary Robert Gates vouched for Tillerson, 64, who has spent more than 40 years at the oil company.

Rice and Gates, who have worked for Exxon as consultants, both issued statements of support on Tuesday.

Their backing could be crucial for Tillerson receiving the approval he needs in the Senate, where Republicans will have a slim majority when Trump takes office on Jan 20.

"The fact that Condi Rice, James Baker and Bob Gates are recommending Tillerson carries considerable weight," said Senator Jeff Flake, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

By choosing Tillerson, Trump adds another person to his Cabinet and circle of advisers who may favor a soft line toward Moscow, which is under U.S. sanctions for its 2014 annexation of Crimea and at the center of allegations that it launched cyber attacks to disrupt the U.S. presidential election.

Tillerson has foreign experience from years of cutting deals with foreign countries for his company, the world's largest energy firm. In 2012, Tillerson signed a deal with Russian state oil giant Rosneft to jointly develop oil fields in western Siberia.

Republicans will have a majority of just 52-48 in the Senate, and only a few defections from their ranks would block Tillerson if every Democrat also opposed him. REUTERS

"It's very well known that he [Tillerson] has a very close relationship with [Russian President] Vladimir Putin."

John McCain

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Trump picks former Texas Gov. Perry as energy secretary

Perry, who also briefly ran in the 2016 presidential race, would have to be confirmed by the Senate to head the Energy Department.

Donald Trump has chosen former Texas Gov. Rick Perry to head the U.S. Department of Energy, a source close to the president-elect said, putting him in charge of an agency he proposed eliminating during his bid for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination.

The choice of Perry adds to the list of oil-drilling advocates skeptical about climate change who Trump has picked for senior positions in his Cabinet, worrying environmentalists but cheering an industry eager for expansion.

The department is responsible for U.S. energy policy and oversees the nation's nuclear weapons program. Perry has advocated lighter regulation on the fossil fuel industry, and has called the science around climate change "unsettled."

Perry's proposal to get rid of the Energy Department caused what has become known as his "oops" moment during a November 2011 Republican presidential candidate debate when he could not remember all of the three Cabinet-level departments he wanted to eliminate. After mentioning the departments of Commerce and Education, he said, "I can't. The third one, I can't. Sorry. Oops."

A few minutes later in the debate Perry said with a laugh, "By the way that was the Department of Energy I was reaching for a while ago."

Perry served as governor of Texas, a leading oil-producing state, from 2000 when he succeeded President George W. Bush until 2015. In his unsuccessful presidential runs, he touted his record of job creation in the second-most-populous state.

Perry was a fierce critic of Trump last year before dropping out of the race, calling him "a cancer on conservatism" who offered "a toxic mix of demagoguery and mean-spiritedness and nonsense."

Trump also had harsh things to say about Perry during the campaign, even belittling his eyeglasses by saying, "He put on glasses so people will think he's smart."

Once Trump secured the nomination, Perry endorsed him as "the people's choice."

There were indications of a possible rocky handover for the Energy Department after Trump transition officials asked the agency for the names of employees who have worked on climate change issues. Department spokesman Eben Burnham-Snyder said on Tuesday the department will not comply and that the request had "left many in our workforce unsettled."

Rick Perry GETTY IMAGES

REUTERS

Newspaper: More votes than voters in many Detroit precincts

Numerous voting machines in heavily Democratic Detroit showed a greater number of ballots than poll workers records said were cast in the Nov. 8 presidential election, the Detroit News reported on Tuesday.

About 37 percent of precincts in Wayne County, Michigan, where Detroit is located, showed such discrepancies, the newspaper reported, citing records prepared at its request by the county.

Voting irregularities in Detroit have prompted the state to audit the election results in the city, the newspaper said.

Michigan was one of three rust belt states in which the campaign of Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein requested a recount of the presidential election.

Those efforts came to an end in Michigan on Friday when the Michigan Supreme Court refused to review an appeal of a lower court order barring a recount.

On Monday, all three efforts were suspended after weeks of legal wrangling yielded a recount in Wisconsin only, and it favored Republican winner Donald Trump.

A federal judge in Pennsylvania rejected Stein's request for a recount and an examination of that state's voting machines for evidence of hacking in the election.

Meanwhile, Wisconsin election officials said on Monday they had completed a 10-day recount that found Trump's margin of victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton had increased by 131 votes.

REUTERS

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US Energy Department balks at Trump request for names on climate change

Trump said during his election campaign that climate change was a hoax perpetrated by China to damage U.S. manufacturing. He said he would rip up last year's landmark global climate deal struck in Paris that was signed by President Obama.

The U.S. Energy Department said on Tuesday it will not comply with a request from President-elect Donald Trump's Energy Department transition team for the names of people who have worked on climate change and the professional society memberships of lab workers.

The response from the Energy Department could signal a rocky transition for the president-elect's energy team and potential friction between the new leadership and the staffers who remain in place.

The memo sent to the Energy Department on Tuesday and reviewed by Reuters last week contains 74 questions including a request for a list of all department employees and contractors who attended the annual global climate talks hosted by the United Nations within the last five years.

Energy Department spokesman Eben Burnham-Snyder said Tuesday the department will not comply.

"Our career workforce, including our contractors and employees at our labs, comprise the backbone of (the Energy Department) and the important work our department does to benefit the American people," Burnham-Snyder said.

President-elect Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

"We are going to respect the professional and scientific integrity and independence of our employees at our labs and across our department," he added. "We will be forthcoming with all publicly available information with the transition team. We will not be providing any individual names to the transition team."

He added that the request "left many in our workforce unsettled."

Reuters reported late Monday that former Texas Gov. Rick Perry is expected to be named by Trump to run the Energy Department. The agency employs more than 90,000 people working on nuclear weapons maintenance and research labs, nuclear energy, advanced renewable energy, batteries and climate science.

The memo sought a list of all department employees or contractors who have attended any meetings on the social cost of carbon, a measurement that federal agencies use to weigh the costs and benefits of new energy and environment regulations. It also asked for all publications written by employees at the department's 17 national laboratories for the past three years.

> *"This feels like the first draft of an eventual political enemies list."*
>
> A Department of Energy employee who asked not to be identified because he feared a reprisal by the Trump transition team

Trump transition officials declined to comment on the memo.

"This feels like the first draft of an eventual political enemies list," a Department of Energy employee, who asked not to be identified because he feared a reprisal by the Trump transition team, had told Reuters. REUTERS

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US proposes vehicles 'talk' to each other to avoid crashes

The U.S. Transportation Department on Tuesday proposed requiring all new cars and trucks to be able to "talk" to one another using short-range wireless technology to potentially avoid tens of thousands of crashes annually.

Regulators, which first announced plans to pursue requiring the technology in early 2014, are proposing to give automakers at least four years to comply from the time it is finalized and would require automakers to ensure all vehicles "speak the same language through a standard technology."

The administration of President-elect Donald Trump will decide whether to finalize the proposal, which does not apply to larger vehicles like buses and tractor trailers.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that talking vehicles could eliminate or reduce the severity of up to 80 percent of crashes where alcohol is not a factor, especially crashes at intersections or while changing lanes.

Travelers hit the road for the holiday weekend on Nov. 23, 2016 in Chicago, Illinois. GETTY IMAGES

Last year, there were 6.3 million vehicle crashes. In October, NHTSA said traffic deaths jumped 10.4 percent in the first six months of 2016. The jump follows a spike in 2015, when road deaths rose 7.2 percent to 35,092, the highest full-year increase since 1966.

Talking cars and trucks would use dedicated short range communications to transmit data up to 300 meters, such as location, direction and speed, to nearby vehicles. That data would be updated and broadcast up to 10 times per second to nearby vehicles, which can identify risks and provide warnings to drivers to avoid imminent crashes.

"From a safety perspective, this is a no-brainer."

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx

NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind said vehicles would protect privacy by only exchanging safety information and would ensure hackers can't intercept signals.

The rule would not require vehicles currently on roads to be retrofitted with the technology. Foxx said owners couldn't turn off the technology but could turn off warnings.

REUTERS

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BRIEF

JK Rowling illustrated manuscript sells for $467,000 at auction

A rare book handwritten and illustrated by "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling sold for $467,000 at auction in London on Tuesday, at the lower end of its estimated price range.

"The Tales of Beedle the Bard" is one of six copies that Rowling made as presents to those who helped bring her magical world of wizards and witches to life.

The third of J.K. Rowling's handwritten and personally illustrated "The Tales of Beedle the Bard" is displayed at Sotheby's. GETTY IMAGES

The copy sold on Tuesday, bound in brown Morocco leather and adorned with silver, was presented to editor Barry Cunningham, who published Rowling's spellbinding debut, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," and carries a personal dedication from her.

The volume of five wizarding fairy tales — left to Hermione Granger by Albus Dumbledore in "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" — had a price estimate of 300,000-500,000 pounds ($380,000-634,000). Sotheby's auction house said in a statement that it had been sold for 368,750 pounds ($467,400) to an anonymous telephone bidder.

A seventh copy, made for an auction in 2007 to raise money for the author's charity, Lumos, raised 1.95 million pounds.

REUTERS

Artists carve snow sculptures in China

Artists carve the 103-meter-long snow sculpture 'Long Song' for the 29th Harbin International Snow Sculpture Art Expo at Sun Island on Tuesday in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province of China. The 103-meter-long, 31-meter-tall snow sculpture "Long Song" welcomes tourists at the 29th Harbin International Snow Sculpture Art Expo which will officially open on Dec. 20. GETTY IMAGES

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Pursuant to the lien granted by the Pennsylvania Self-Service Storage Facility Act, 73 P.S. § 1901, et. seq., Metro Storage, LLC, as managing agent for Lessor, will sell by public auction (or otherwise dispose) personal property (in its entirety) belonging to the tenants listed below to the highest bidder to satisfy the lien of the Lessor for rental and other charges due. The said property has been stored and is located at the respective address below. Units up for auction will be listed for public bidding on-line at **www.Storagestuff.bid** beginning five days prior to the scheduled auction date and time. The terms of the sale will be cash only. A 10% buyer's premium will be charged per unit. All sales are final. Metro Self Storage, LLC reserves the right to withdraw any or all units, partial or entire, from the sale at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. All contents must be removed completely from the property within 48 hours or sooner or are deemed abandoned by bidder/buyer. Sale rules and regulations are available at the time of sale.

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ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Kanye West met with Trump

On Tuesday morning, Kanye West — whom we all assumed to be nestled away on the West Coast, helping Kim Kardashian take selfies, and still recovering from his recent hospitalization — strolled into Trump Tower in New York City with his new blond hair and a full entourage in tow. He was there for a meeting with President-elect Donald Trump.

Kanye was mum on the details when reporters asked what the pair might talk about. But TMZ is reporting Yeezy himself requested the meeting and Trump, being the camera-friendly guy he is, obliged.

Without any details on exactly how or why this meeting came to be, we can only speculate. Kanye was booed at his concert for supporting Trump's bid for president; maybe he wanted to congratulate him in person. Or perhaps Trump wasn't satisfied with Kanye's version of his nude body in the video for "Famous" and, looking forward to future projects, Kanye wanted to get a more accurate mold. Or maybe there was no meeting and the whole thing was just another chance for a buzzy photo op that.

Will the circus that is 2016 ever end?

Ariana Grande drops the L-word

Music videos are usually one of the first things couples in the industry do together. So when we saw Ariana Grande as the leading lady in her boyfriend Mac Miller's video for "My Favorite Part"... well, it doesn't mean marriage is on the horizon, but it def solidifies their status as an item.

Things are certainly heating up for Grande and Miller off screen as well. We learned about their relationship in August after the lovebirds were spotted kissing. Since then, they've gotten matching tattoos, and after the debut of Miller's music video, the "Side to Side" songstress declared her love for her beau on Instagram.

the word

SESALI BOWEN
sesali.bowen@metro.us

William H. Macy supports equal pay on 'Shameless'

William H. Macy's "Shameless" character, Frank Gallagher, is a scheming addict with an affinity for sex, fraud and self-righteous monologues. He has six children who have learned to survive without him because he's so unreliable. His oldest daughter Fiona, played by Emmy Rossum, has stepped up as the family matriarch. It's a thankless job, but someone has to do it.

In real life, Rossum is demanding pay equal to Macy's for being the shows leading lady — Fiona is hardly a lady, but you get the idea — and Macy supports her. Production for the show's eighth season is on hold while Rossum insists she be paid more than Macy to make up for the seasons in which she earned significantly less than he did.

When TMZ asked Macy about Rossum's contract dispute, Macy quoted some history on the Equal Rights Amendment and said it was "about time." Macy insists that Rossum is his equal, "except [he's] better-looking."

Good one, Frank.

Chrissy Metz's driver doesn't think she's a good actress

In a funny case of not recognizing what, or who, is in front of you, a driver in Los Angeles snubbed one of Hollywood's most promising actresses. Chrissy Metz was getting out of a black SUV in Beverly Hills on Tuesday and told TMZ cameras that she read a line for her driver to get his opinion on her skills. But he wasn't impressed with her performance. He told her "on that alone, you wouldn't get nominated."

Obviously, the driver didn't recognize Metz as Kate from the hit NBC drama "This Is Us." He's also going to kick himself when he realizes that the 36-year-old just snagged her first Golden Globe nomination for the role. If the service sends the same driver to pick Metz up for the ride home, it's going to be so awkward.

Aly Raisman is dating NFL's Colton Underwood

Aly Raisman might be a two-time Olympic gymnast, but she's still a millennial of the digital age. The 22-year-old lives in a time where her food, transportation and even a new boyfriend are all supplied as a result of tapping her phone. Case in point: On Tuesday, Raisman confirmed with People that she has been dating NFL tight end Colton Underwood since August. The couple made their first public appearance at the Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year Ceremony at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn on Monday.

Raisman saw Underwood for the first time in a video he recorded for Yahoo congratulating her and Team USA for their Olympic medals. He casually asked her out, and she took to Twitter to accept. Welcome to dating in the age of the internet.

The web is a portal of infinite possibilities, but it really goes "down in the DM."

Queen Latifah says if you do anything for fame, you become anything

Queen Latifah plays Carlotta in the new Lee Daniels show, "Star," premiering tonight on FOX. TOMMY GARCIA/FOX

The rapper, producer and actress stars in the new Fox show "Star."

JENNIFER LOGUE
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The new Lee Daniels show "Star" follows the rise of three young singers from obscurity to the top of the charts. One of its cast members, Queen Latifah, relates personally to the struggle. The rapper, music producer and actress plays Carlotta in the series: a washed-up singer who exchanges tracks for cutting hair and finds herself as a surrogate mother of sorts to the young girl group. We got to chat with Latifah on set about the dark side of the entertainment industry, taking a chance on your dreams and the pursuit of fame versus the pursuit of craft.

What attracted you to the role?
I was attracted to it way before there was a script; Lee Daniels and I had conversations about the concept of the show over the years. He would add more and take parts away. We'd talk every six months or so. Finally he was ready and showed me this 13-page treatment and I was like, "Wow. This is juicy. Let's go for it."

Where did you draw inspiration from for Carlotta's character?
A part of her is people that Lee and I both know. I grew up in East Orange, he grew up in Philly — you know these places, you know these houses, you know these women, you know these salons. Having been in the music business, I know what it's like to have a hit, to deal with shady people and have friends that get caught up in drugs, and lose friends along the way. We had similar lives in certain ways and know these characters. We know who Carlotta is. The rest is things that Lee sees in his mind in terms of where she is going, and I step into his brain for the rest of it. I'm in her shoes a lot quicker now than on day one. Initially I relied on him a lot to have that clear vision of who he saw her as.

Can you relate to the girls in the show?
I definitely faced my own challenges. Just trying to get a record deal [was hard]. I know what it's like to be hungry, beat the pavement. My boy spent his rent money to put me and one of my other boys in the studio to make a demo — somebody didn't get paid that month for us to make this music. [Laughs] Of course, when I got a deal I paid him back plenty. But this was all about taking chances on yourself and your dream. But you never know. It's a chance you take and it's more important in you believing in that dream for yourself.

Is there such a thing as going too far?
I've seen very ambitious people make really bad decisions because they wanted to get on so bad and they were willing to do anything. And you can't just do anything, because you become anything, and people will treat you like anything.

In the show, I see this recurrent theme of pursuit of fame versus pursuit of craft. What are your thoughts on that?
Some people really want to be famous and want all the things that they think comes with fame. They see a glamorous life, money, riches, cars, drugs, alcohol — all of that. Some people see music, the creativity of it — creating something that makes them feel good inside and sharing that with the world. That's what's important. Sometimes it's a mixture of both. I think there's a way to take the craft of music and build a business model around it that helps transport it to the world. If you are successful with your craft, then the fame is a by-product of it. It comes automatically. People always say, "That's the price you pay for fame," but I never set out to be famous. I set out to make music. The fame came with it.

"Star" will debut on Fox Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 9 p.m. after the fall finale of "Empire."

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Lee Daniels thinks his new show 'Star' is pretty provocative for network TV

The series premieres tonight at 9 p.m. on FOX, following the fall finale of "Empire."

JENNIFER LOGUE
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Lee Daniels' newest show, "Star," is not for the faint of heart — but then again, neither is the pursuit of fame and fortune in the first place. The series follows three young singers who form a girl group and face more odds than most — from abusive foster care environments to struggles with addiction. Daniels chats with us about staying true to art and what keeps him from filming in his hometown of Philly.

What was the initial inspiration behind "Star"?

Denzel Washington. I signed my deal at FOX and I asked him, "What do I do?" He said, "Well, what inspires you?" I said, "What does that mean?" He said, "What inspired you? What is inspiring to you?" Then I started thinking. Then I realized it was "Dreamgirls" and "Valley of the Dolls." You probably don't know the film or the book ["Valley of the Dolls"], but it's something I grew up on about a girl who would do whatever it took to get to the top. And when she got to the top, what was that like? She'd stab you, she'd have sex with you, she'd rob you, anything. That quest for fame. What happens when you're famous? Is it really worth it at the end of the day?

The average person doesn't see the dark side of fame...

Also, telling secrets about myself — you know the Lyons family in "Empire" — it's really about my family, but then pushing the boundaries further for me. So, I'm talking about me landing in Hollywood and the things I would do to get to where it was, and dealing with my own personal demons as I dealt with them.

Lee Daniels PROVIDED

A theme I noticed in the pilot was the pursuit of fame vs. the pursuit of craft. What are your thoughts on that?

Well, it's real. It's very real and it's constantly a struggle. Doing television is something I had no intention on ever doing because I come from the theatre. So, television was something that was like really beneath me, and then my kid's college bill came. Like, sh—, let me jump on this bandwagon! [Laughs] I had no idea that "Empire" was going to be successful at all. I started thinking, 'Do I want to do a movie for money?' Because I have bills to pay. Or do I want to do it for the art? And, I am always drawn to the art, and that sucks. Otherwise, I'd be doing action movies and stuff and making [more money] but I try to bring as much art as I can to the work, as much integrity as I can to the work as much as Primetime will let me. That is what I find fascinating about "Star." I feel like I'm watching a cable show. It's very provocative for [FOX] to do this. Don't you think?

Without a doubt. I screamed at the top of my lungs watching the screener last night. Scared my neighbors.

I still think they are going to call me and be like, 'Excuse me, we just realized that this is not okay…' [Laughs]

TV is more interesting than most film these days.

I don't know if we're going to have films anymore with the way that we watch them. It's a new world.

So I read that you began your career with casting in Hollywood. Do you involve yourself heavily in the casting of your projects now?

Well, I sort of passed this bug onto my sister, so she really is the one.

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From left: Brittany O'Grady, Jude Demorest, Queen Latifah and Quincy Brown on "Star." WILFORD HAREWOOD/FOX

I brought her into my world so she really does help me enormously. I don't really take the credit. I don't like to take her shine away. Her name is Leah. My partner Fisher helps me with all the fashion in all of my stuff. I have a group of incredible people around me. I'm just the puppeteer.

Now I know you're from Philly, and for a while the city had a lot of big film projects. Why are you filming your projects outside of Philly now?

Pennsylvania has to pull their tax incentive together. I've done two films there and that's my home. Nothing makes me happier than being home, and I wanna be home. Sharon Pinkenson [of the Greater Philadelphia Film Office] is working so hard to make it happen and hopefully it's happening soon.

People outside of the industry don't understand how much it boosts the economy — jobs, tourism...

They don't get it. It's very disturbing and very sad and to be honest, it's where I prefer to be. When we made "Empire," I wrote it so it could be in Philadelphia. We spent weeks trying to work with the tax issue but we just couldn't.

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Diego Luna plays Cassian Andor, one of the rebels on the mission to steal the plans for the first Death Star, in "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story." JONATHAN OLLEY

Diego Luna goes to a galaxy far, far away

The actor talks "Rogue One" and how "Star Wars" was the first movie he wanted to see.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
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Diego Luna has no less than second billing in a "Star Wars" movie. It's an unlikely turn for an actor, 36, best known for small, intimate films, like "Y Tu Mama Tambien" (and occasional big movie turns, like in "Elysium"). "Rogue One," a spin-off/prequel, tells the story of the rebels who stole the plans for the first Death Star, leading directly into the events of the first film (aka "A New Hope"). Luna plays Cassian Andor, a member of the team, which also includes Felicity Jones' Jyn Erso, tasked with the big caper. Luna talks to us about making a "Star Wars" movie that doesn't look like the others, his childhood "Star Wars" memories and what it's like to finally have a Diego Luna action figure.

You can tell, even by looking at the previews, that "Rogue One" is very different from the others.

It's very different. That was the premise. They said, "You guys are expected to do something very different." That's the only way I can understand why I'm here. [Laughs] Gareth [Edwards, director] really wanted a group of actors whose work is mostly on smaller films, more intimate and realistic films. He wanted to bring that texture into this "Star Wars" world. Yes, we'll have big stuff, we'll have the battles. But then we have a chance to be with the characters up close, in an intimate and realistic way.

For our generation, the first three "Star Wars" films are some of our first movie moments. "Return of the Jedi" is the first film I remember watching in a movie theater.

["Star Wars" is] the first film I remember watching because I wanted to watch it. Before, it was films my parents wanted me to watch. My father needed two hours of silence at home, so he had me watch "Dumbo" or "Bambi." With "Star Wars," it was, "I want to see this film. Enough of cartoons. I want to see real actors. I want to be a Jedi." I guess I'm the luckiest fan in the world, because I got to play with the real toys.

Which was your favorite toy as a kid?

Always Darth Vader. Darth Vader was impossible to get out of my head. The sound of his breathing was part of most of my nightmares. My father is a set designer and my mother was a costume designer, so I was pretty aware that there was an actor behind that mask. I could be a little cynical about it. But I really liked him. I really liked the Dark Side.

GETTY IMAGES

I remember having one of those microversions of sets from "The Empire Strikes Back." Did you have a lot of toys?

Not a lot. It was tough in Mexico to get them. You had to go to the toy store, put your name in for it, then wait months for the call. And back then, they didn't expect these films to be this big, to have this reach. Today the toys come out two months before the film. Back then, it was different. First you engaged with the film, then there was a need for the toys. And they would run out of them, because they weren't expecting this huge success.

And now you have your own action figure.

People ask me, "How does it feel?" I don't know! [Laughs] I don't feel anything yet. I'm still kind of shocked.

The Philly band Work Drugs performs Saturday, Dec. 17. CHRIS SIKICH

Work Drugs are your holiday escape

For the sixth year in a row, Philly-based dream-pop duo, Work Drugs, will be performing their Holiday Spectacle at Boot & Saddle. If you're looking for an escape from the East Coast's bitter cold or need to chill out from the stress of the season, their summery, West Coast vibes are the perfect remedy. We got to chat with Thomas Crystal, who plays vocals and guitar, about the meaning behind their band name and what we can expect from this Saturday's holiday show.

Can you tell us about your music for people that may not be familiar with it?
I would say it's upbeat pop music with an early alt-rock feel. It's kind of softer, but it's also got a good groove — so it's danceable.

At its core, Work Drugs is a duo but at this show you'll have a full band?
It's me and Ben [Louisiana]. For the live show, it's a four piece and at the Christmas show, it's going to be a five or six piece. We're going to have special guests, extra singers, extra horn players — so it's going to be kind of a big thing.

What can we expect from the holiday show?
We love Christmas and the holiday season. It's an opportunity to get some friends together, get some special guests together. Go out there and play some Christmas songs, play some originals — but make it more of a party than a very strict show sort of thing. It's pretty neat. A lot of people come up to play with us that we know from the Philly scene and it's a fun thing. It's kind of just grown into a tradition, really.

Who will be sharing the stage with you?
A band called RFA. They're a great band — really high energy, so we're excited about them. We've always tried to cultivate growing bands that are newer on the scene. We've had different bands over the years, like Vita and the Woolf last year.

What are your hopes for 2017?
I think with all the protesting and all the division in the country, let's just pull together and try to make the best of the situation and have a fun year, good year. Hopefully some good music comes out and it can distract us from the craziness of the world. That's my part. I don't need anything physical.

JENNIFER LOGUE

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'I'm Not Dead Until You Forget Me' zine reading is some type of fun

"I'm Not Dead Until You Forget Me" will take place on Saturday, Dec. 17. MIKE FENN

Local zinesters keep the medium alive and kicking.

MIKE FENN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

For much of the 20th century, especially in the closing decades, zines were an excellent way to share information, stories and other content that mainstream media tended to shy away from. Using little more than typewriters, scissors and glue, and of course, extraneous amounts of time at a copy machine, zines hit their zenith in the 1970s and 1980s in the underground publication community. While the advent of personal blogs may have affected zine production — and purpose — the medium is far from dead. Even today, zinesters continue to share their independently produced content with each other by way of libraries, special events and readings.

"I'm Not Dead Until You Forget Me" is such a reading that will take over the Penn LGTBQ Center on the University of Pennsylvania campus on Saturday, Dec. 17. Focusing on relationships and identity — two topics very prominent in modern-day zine culture — the event will kick off at 3 p.m. and feature a number of prominent zine readers.

Arranged by Kerri Radley, a 20-year zine veteran and winner of the 2015 Leeway Transformation Award, Radley is the creator of "Deafula," a zine which chronicles her life with hearing impairment. Prior to this reading, she has appeared at zine readings all over the country, including at the Wooden Shoe in Philadelphia, the Big Idea Bookstore in Pittsburgh and the Chicago Zine Fest.

"The audience can expect to hear pieces read by truly wonderful writers, each of whom confront crucial subjects in their writing," Radley said. "These include marginalization, the intersection of race and queerness, disability, personal loss and childhood trauma."

Radley, who will be debuting the ninth issue of Deafula at the reading, will be joined by fellow zinesters Alex Smith (Metropolarity, A R K D U S T), Khristina (No Shame Distro founder), Cynthia Ann Schemmer (She Shreds Magazine) and Sarah Sawyers-Lovett (Tazewell's Favorite Eccentric, Book Jawn podcast).

"This reading especially is validating because it's at the Penn queer student center and it feels very much like something that nerdy 16-year-old Sarah would be proud of," Sawyers-Lovett said. "I got involved with zines after a pen pal sent me one of hers when I was a teenager; they made me feel like I had a place to use my voice, despite living in a tiny town in the middle of the bible belt."

The "I'm Not Dead Until You Forget Me" zine reading will take place on Saturday, Dec. 17 at the Penn LGTBQ Center at 3907 Spruce St. on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. The free event starts at 3 p.m. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be available.

Your weekly dose of #RealEstatePorn.

ALEXIS SACHDEV
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Industrial, modern, English countryside, Federal, Art Deco – Philadelphia is a mishmash of architectural styles, each neighborhood brimming with history built into the bricks.

This week, we scoured listings for the best Philly has to offer. They're just, well, pretty. Flooded with natural light or filled with warm exposed brick, each of these homes is special in its own right, and represents Philadelphia's eclectic architecture.

735 S. 12th St.

For **$550,000**, this open-concept industrial penthouse with exposed brick is perfect for whatever your design fancy: minimalism, maximalism, shabby chic, Scandinavian — its possibilities are endless. Located in the Fitzwater Lofts, this home is flooded with natural light and offers skyline views.

Size: Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, 1,728 square feet

Sweet perks: Top-of-the-line amenities, stainless-steel appliances, a private rooftop deck and a cozy reading nook for lazy Sundays.

1106 N. Third St.

Modern new construction in Northern Liberties offers dramatic design and thoughtful details throughout, from the chef's kitchen to the luxurious master bathroom. This townhouse, listed for **$825,000**, also includes a rooftop deck with sweeping views of the skyline, Delaware River and Ben Franklin Bridge.

Size: Four bedrooms, three-and-a-half bathrooms, 2,800 square feet

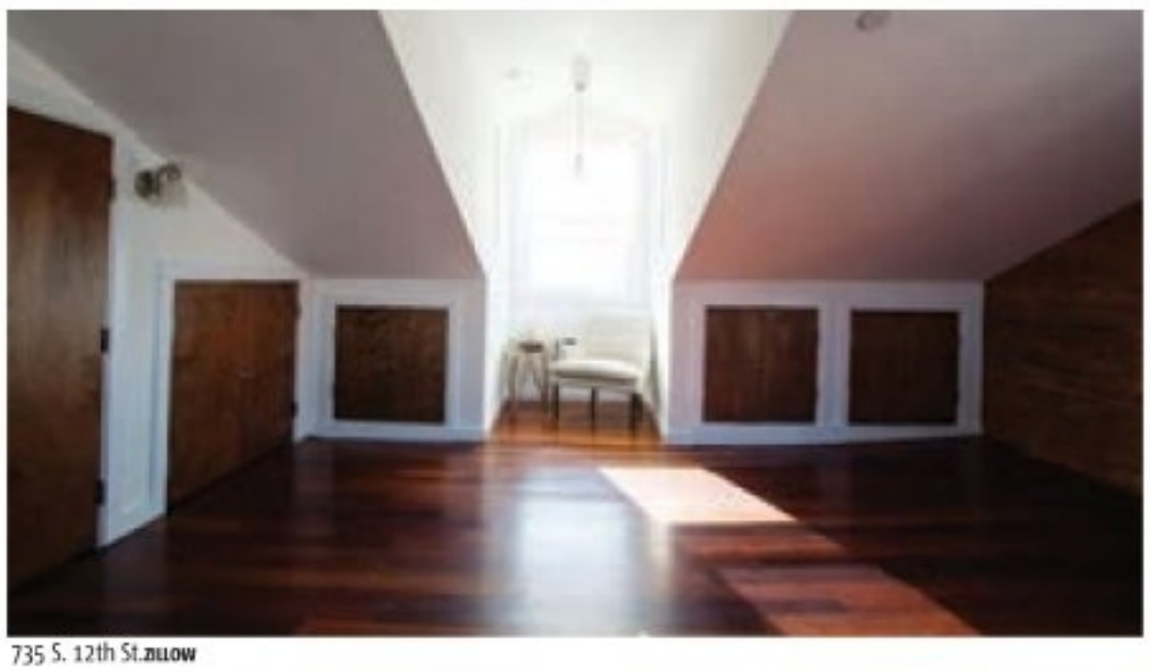
Sweet perks: One-car garage and a private yard, built-in wine cooler, 36-inch Bertazzoni range and white quartz countertops in the kitchen; heated floors in the master bath with a stand-alone soaking tub and glass shower with multiple shower heads.

122 W. Gravers Lane

Tucked away in charming Chestnut Hill, this late-1800s farmhouse balances historic charm with modern amenities. Priced at $575,000, this home is just steps from Pastorious Park, Germantown Avenue's shops, restaurants and venues, and the Wissahickon trails.

Size: Four beds, three baths, 1,788 square feet

Sweet perks: Sun-flooded stained-glass windows, stainless-steel appliances and quartz counters in the kitchen, hardwood floors throughout and a private yard and flagstone patio.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9 Things to know about the Flyers 9-game winning streak

The orange and black continues to climb the Eastern Conference and Metropolitan Division standings.

KYLE PHILLIPPI
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1 The last time

It's been a very long time since the Flyers have strung together a streak like this, so much so that two of their players, Ivan Provorov and Travis Konecny, weren't even alive the last time this happened. The Flyers last won nine games in a row back on April 22, 1995.

2 Slowly gaining ground

While the Flyers have really climbed the standings — gaining 18 out of a possible 18 points since Nov. 27 will do that — the rest of the Metropolitan Division has been just as hot. The top five teams in the division are a combined 25-3-1 in December. There's five teams with 37 or more points in the Metropolitan whereas no other group has more than one team with that many points entering Monday.

3 Something special

It's a game of special teams, and right now, the Flyers are kings on the power play. The Flyers have scored on the man advantage in six of these games, going 7 of 24 (29.2%) and climbing up to No. 1 in the NHL for power play percentage. As of Monday, the Flyers are one of two teams (Columbus) with a 24% or higher success rate in the league.

4 Bringing the power

Going along with that, four of the top five power play scorers in the league wear orange and black. Claude Giroux leads all with 15 points with Wayne Simmonds right behind at 14 points and a league-leading eight goals on the man-advantage. Jakub Voracek and Brayden Schenn are in a three-way tie with Dallas' Tyler Seguin for third with 13 points. Shayne Gostisbehere isn't too far back with nine points.

Goalie Steve Mason has been playing like a Vezina Trophy winner over the past couple weeks. NHLI VIA GETTY IMAGES

5 The goalies

Goaltending has reigned supreme in Philadelphia as of late. During this stretch, Steve Mason and Anthony Stolarz have compiled a 2.11 goals against average. Disregard the strange 6-5 win the Flyers picked up over Edmonton, and there has only been one team who has scored more than two goals against Philadelphia in the last nine games.

6 Grueling schedule

Back-to-backs haven't been a problem for the Flyers this season. With their 1-0 win over Detroit on Sunday, they are now 5-1-1 in the second game of back-to-backs. They've had two such wins during their streak.

7 Unfamiliar foes

None of these nine wins have come against a division opponent and only four of these games have been against Eastern Conference foes. They'll finally play a division opponent in back-to-back games on Dec. 21 and 22 versus Washington and New Jersey.

8 Feisty foes

The competition hasn't been weak. Five of these nine games were against teams who are currently in a playoff spot with two more of those teams (Dallas, Nashville) sitting two points back of the wild card.

9 Up next

The Flyers next game is against Colorado, which is tied for the fewest amount of points in the NHL with Arizona. The Avalanche have lost seven of their last nine games entering Wednesday's tilt with the Flyers. A win by Philadelphia would give them 10 in a row and their longest streak since 1985 where they went on to win their franchise-best 13-game winning streak.

Unlike previous seasons, Flyers are actually in decent shape in standings

On Dec. 12, 2015, the Flyers were 11-12-4, buried in sixth place in the Metropolitan Division and sitting 12th out of 16 teams in the Eastern Conference.

Although they rebounded to qualify for the playoffs last year, the Flyers didn't turn their season around until January, and then needed to go 17-6-4 over the final three months just to grab the last playoff berth.

Thanks to their nine-game winning streak, which was extended on Sunday night with a 1-0 overtime win in Detroit, the Flyers are in a much more favorable position in the standings than last year at this point.

At 18-10-3, they are tied with the Penguins for second place and are just two points behind the first place Rangers in the division and trail the conference-leading Canadiens by two points through Sunday's games — but have also played the most games of any other team in the East.

"Yeah, we're ahead a little bit here," Wayne Simmonds said following Saturday's come-from-behind win over the Stars. "We've got a lot of confidence and need to continue playing the way we've been playing … play Flyer Hockey."

The Flyers have not lost since falling to the Rangers on Black Friday and the streak is the club's longest since April of 1995. To put it into perspective, consider current Flyers rookies Travis Konecny and Ivan Provorov were not even born yet and captain Claude Giroux was entering first grade.

They will attempt to hit double figures for the first time since 1985, when they won a franchise-record 13 straight, on Wednesday against the Avalanche.

While the Flyers are looking down on most of the conference right now, Jakub Voracek cautioned that it's not even Christmas yet and there's plenty of hockey left.

"It is only 30 games in," he said Saturday. "Obviously, you are going to hit some slumps like every team does, but you have to make sure it doesn't last for a long time."

What the Flyers have essentially done with their perfect stretch is build a bit of a buffer against a slump. The players don't need to treat each of the final 30 games of the season like a playoff game like they did last year, which was physically and mentally draining for them.

Claude Giroux is undoubtedly pleased with his team's recent surge. GETTY IMAGES

Instead, they can focus on keeping pace with the division and conference leaders rather than chase after that last playoff spot.

"When guys get confident, you've got that winning feeling and it's a nice feeling to have in the locker room," said Brayden Schenn, who had a hat trick on Saturday and the game-winner on Sunday. "We're finding ways [to win] right now. You need to get on these streaks throughout an 82-game season to propel yourself forward for the playoff run. ERIC GOLDSTEIN

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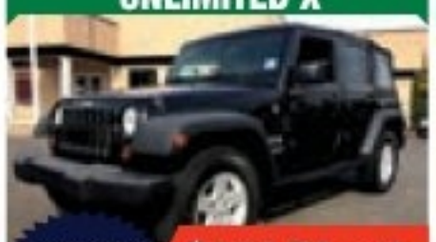
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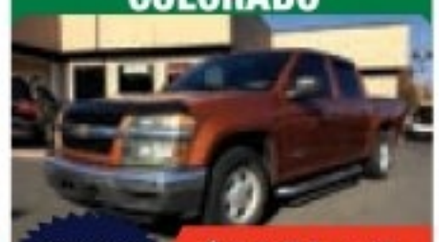
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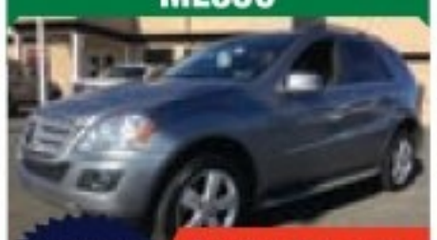
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What Owls fans need to know about new head coach

Geoff Collins will take over as the next head coach of Temple football.

EVAN MACY
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Temple sticks with defense-first, hiring a defensive coordinator. GETTY IMAGES

One of the biggest reasons the Temple football team — which is in the midst of its second straight 10-win season — can't keep a head coach is that it's not a big conference, big time football school.

Their newest hire, Geoff Collins (who sources report is going to be the new school skipper) has a big school pedigree and is a defensive minded coach, which best befits the Owls roster.

Collins is departing the University of Florida where he is the team's defensive coordinator. He will leave Gainesville's sixth-ranked total defensive squad for North Philly and the Owls, ranked third in the country.

The coach has worked as the defensive coordinator prior to three years at Florida with Mississippi State and Florida International. On the assistant level, he has worked at UCF, Georgia Tech, Western Carolina, Albright College, Fordham and Alabama.

"As soon as I met with Geoff I knew right away that this was the right coach at the right time for Temple University," Director of Athletics Patrick Kraft said. "Well beyond Geoff's acumen as a coach of hard, physical football, he shares our values of embracing the student-athlete and demanding excellence in all that we do. We welcome Geoff and Jennifer to the Temple family. I know that he will be fantastic."

Like his Temple predecessors Steve Addazio, Al Golden and recently departed Matt Rhule (who will coach at Baylor next year), Collins will be a head coach for the first time with the Owls.

The Owls will play in the Military Bowl in Annapolis, Maryland, against Wake Forest on Tuesday, Dec. 27 at 3:30 p.m.

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15 Watch faces
16 Grimace
17 All-purpose vehicles
18 Cul-de-sac
19 Earthen pot
20 Work perk
22 Apprehensive
24 Nick or scratch
25 Pair in Scotland
26 Sheba, today
29 Nipped
32 Sky-high
36 Dendrite's partner
37 More gaunt
39 Potpie veggie
40 Our ancestors (hyph.)
43 Bravo, in Baja
44 Ice hockey venues
45 Livy's "it was"
46 Sleek swimmer
48 Hankering
49 Austria neighbor
50 Really big tees
52 It's south of Eur.
53 Obsesses over (2 wds.)
57 In plain sight
61 Pulpit
62 Boring tool
64 Sheik or sultan
65 Next in line
66 Aileron locale
67 Moon goddess
68 Type of prof
69 Gill openings
70 Lodge

Down
1 Slight
2 Fa or la
3 Part of the range
4 Tornado refuge
5 Oil-well capper Red --
6 River-mouth deposit
7 Crony
8 Music notation
9 So far (2 wds.)
10 What science is
11 Eat hungrily
12 Ripsnorter
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27 Shout for joy
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29 Golf score
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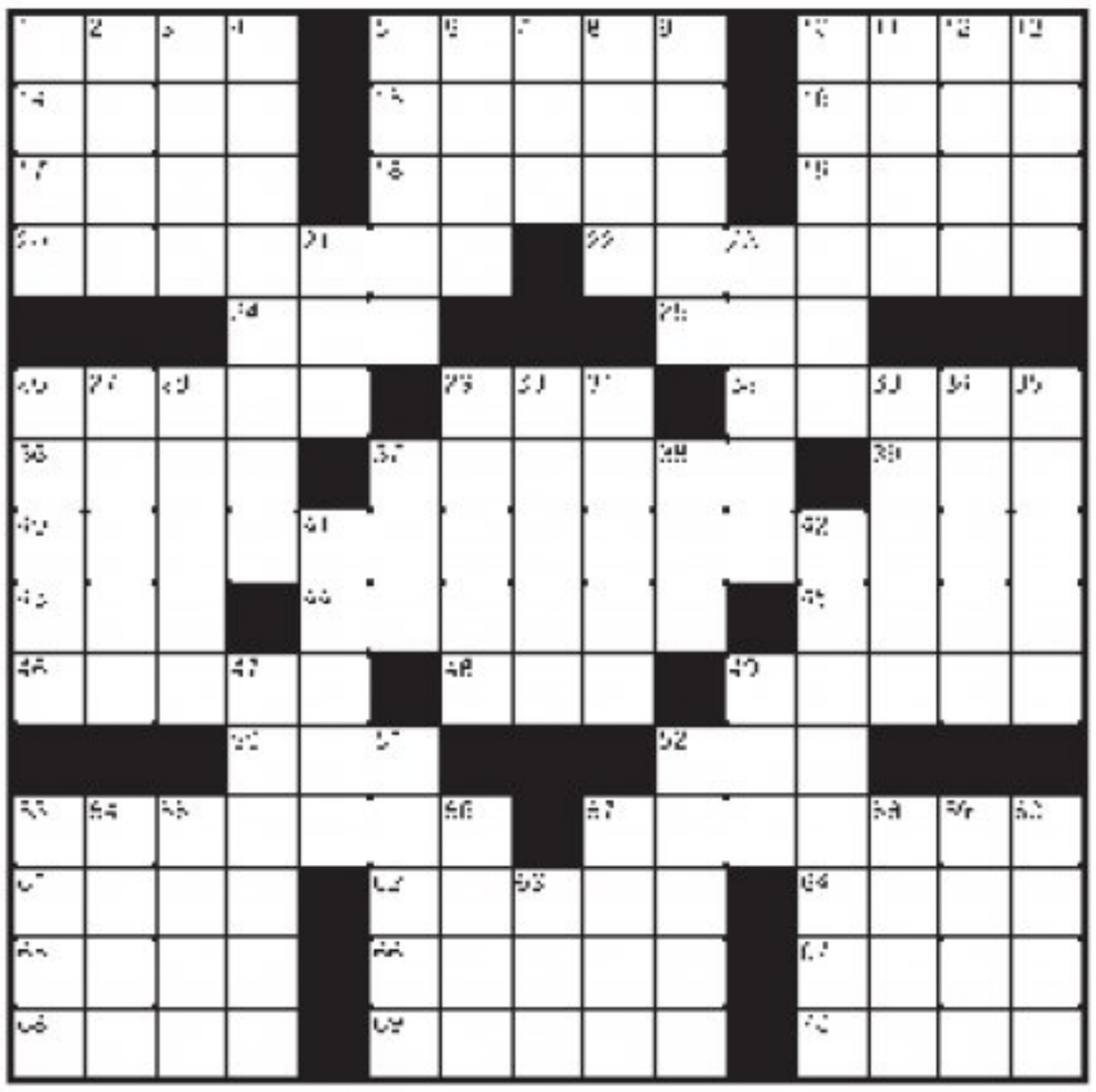
54 Iowa college town
55 Slugger's stats
56 Void's partner
57 Chimney
58 Very dry
59 Superboy's girlfriend
60 Auction site
63 Moo goo -- pan



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easy

3		6			5	2		
	9	5		3	4			
	8				7			
2	5			6				8
6				8				9
7				4			1	2
			4				2	
			1	7		8	6	
		7	9			4		1

hard

					4	5	1	
	7	6						
		8	2		1	9		7
				2	3	7		
	1		4		6		5	
		9	1	5				
4		7	6		8	3		
						1	7	
	9	1	5					

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Emotional situations will flare up if you aren't careful about how you deal with your peers or family members. Use caution when discussing delicate matters.

Taurus Sharing expenses with colleagues, friends or relatives will be worthwhile. Don't feel the need to overspend. Look for alternatives that will help you cut corners.

Gemini You'll be faced with an unusual situation. Making a choice will be stressful if you don't have all the facts. A poor decision will lead to an emotional expense.

Cancer Book a trip, or discuss your plans for the upcoming year with someone you want to spend more time with. Sign up for a course or indulge in a creative pursuit.

Leo Deal with matters concerning institutions. It's important to have everything in place before the year comes to a close. Do something nice for children or elders.

Virgo Call in favors to clear up pressing matters before the year ends. A partnership looks promising, and discussions regarding how to move forward are encouraged.

Libra Attend a community event geared toward festive ideas and end-of-year sales. A reunion with old friends or colleagues will be enlightening. Travel plans is encouraged.

Scorpio Put muscle into your domestic chores and get your place in tip-top shape before year's end. Moving forward without baggage will give you new beginnings.

Sagittarius Change is good, and channeling your energy to make it happen will be satisfying. Your ability to work hard will bring results that exceed your expectations.

Capricorn You'll be given an unusual choice that's worth considering. Discuss what you can contribute and what you would like in return.

Aquarius Make festive plans with youngsters. Preparing for upcoming events will bring you one step closer to an organized and peaceful end-of-year experience.

Pisces Being ready for upcoming festivities or taking care of personal paperwork that will help you transition from one year to the next should take top priority. EUGENIA LAST

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